**Changing Your Technology 'Tude**



**What are educators and their students using technology for?**

* Communicating with parents
* Collaborating with other teachers and students
* Creating presentations and reports
* Educational gaming
* Shooting and sharing videos
* Designing web pages
* Storing information
* Sharing assignments
* Assessment
* Reading Instruction
* Mathematics
* Creating original art work
* Building Science and Social Studies knowledge
* Classroom management tasks
* Publishing books
* Practicing foundational skills
* Research
* Developing writing skills
* You name it!

**Terms You May Have Heard and Wondered About: (this is a very short list – if you have a question about what something means – just ask!)**

**App**: This really stands for application. The most common use of the term has to do with those little buttons we can download to our iPads, iPods, and smart phones that do all kinds of cool things like tell us where the nearest Italian restaurant is or what kind of leaf we are looking at.

**Blended Learning**: Using a combination of online resources and classes and traditional "bricks and mortar" teaching.

**Blog**: sort of like an online diary that other people can read and respond to.

**Browser**: A Web browser, often just called a "browser," is the program people use to access the World Wide Web. Some common browsers are Microsoft Internet Explorer, Netscape Communicator, and Apple Safari.

(The) **Cloud**: This simply means the internet. If you save something to the cloud you are really storing it on the internet. It also means you can access that information anywhere you have an internet connection.

**Download**: This is the process in which data is sent to your computer. Whenever you receive information from the Internet, you are downloading it to your computer. For example, you might have to download an upgrade for your computer's operating system in order to play a new game. The opposite of this process, sending information to another computer, is called **uploading**.

**Flipped Classrooms**: Classrooms where teachers record the direct instruction part of the lesson and have students view it at home. Then, when students come to class, there is more time to practice the application of the skill or concept with the teacher being on-hand trouble-shoot with individual students.

**IWB**: This is short for interactive white board. The biggest manufacturers of these are SMART and Promethean.

**QR Code**: The expanded term is quick response code. Scanning this with your phone or other device that has a QR Reader on it will take you to a web address set up by the person who created the code. You'll find the QR code for my blog The Bulletin Board on the last page of these handouts so you can try it out.

**Tweet**: A message containing 140 characters or less and sent using the social networking site Twitter.

**URL**: a web address.

**Web Tools You Can Use With Your Students**

[www.photopeach.com](http://www.photopeach.com)

Photo Peach is a really simple web tool that allows you to create slideshows out of digital pictures you and your students have taken or out of images you have found on the internet. You select the pictures you want, choose some music from their collection (or yours) and Photo Peach creates the slideshow for you with a variety of transitions. You can make as many as you want and view them online as many times as you want for free. If you want to download them to your computer there's a $3 monthly fee. ([www.smilebox.com](http://www.smilebox.com) is a similar site that has a few more options)

[www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)

Dropbox is a virtual filing cabinet. You can save documents, photos, and videos there and anyone with the password to the account can access those items from anywhere there is an internet connection. The first 2 GB of storage is free. That's a lot of storage!

[www.linoit.com](http://www.linoit.com)

This web tool is a virtual bulletin board. It allows you and your students to post sticky notes in response to questions, pictures that fit a particular category, resources for others to check out on a certain topic – really anything at all. It works just like an old-fashioned cork board except that anyone with the password can add a sticky to the "canvas". Others can see it and respond or add their own thought. It's free and fun and a good way to get your student collaborating online – even with other classrooms.

[www.edublogs.org](http://www.edublogs.org) & [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)

These are both sites that help you and your students create personal blogs. The first does not require an email account so each student can have their own if desired. The second is the one I used to create my blog – the Bulletin Board. You do need an email account for that one so that might be good for you. These sites have templates and backgrounds to choose from and you can go in and add something anytime you want from anywhere there's an internet connection. It's free and another great way to get students writing and collaborating digitally.

**Web Tools You Can Use With Your Students**

[www.pixton.com](http://www.pixton.com)

Pixton is a comic-creation website. Membership is free and you and your students can choose from different comic strip formats, add characters, props, and speech bubbles about any topic you want. It's easy to navigate and get caught up in.

[www.theteachersguide.com/virtualtours.html](http://www.theteachersguide.com/virtualtours.html)

This site provides a great list (links as well!) to some of the virtual field trips available. Many are free and take you to places like the Statue of Liberty or the Grand Canyon. Some offer still shots and videos while others offer panoramic 360 views by clicking your mouse. These can be taken as a group if you have a projector and screen in your room or by pairs of students on tablets.

[www.education.skype.com](http://www.education.skype.com)

This web tool might be something you use personally. I use it chat with my nieces and nephews because I only get to see them in person a couple of times a year. You can also use it professionally. Skype has created this site just for teachers. They've set it up so you can register and become part of a database of educators who want to find people to Skype with. You can also use it to conduct interviews with local experts or elected officials. Visit the website skypeanauthor.wetpaint.com to see a list of authors who will Skype with classrooms.

[www.newseum.org](http://www.newseum.org)

This site is sponsored by the interactive museum "Newseum" in Washington, D.C. There are many sections to this site but one that is free is the button on the right hand side called Today's Front Pages". This gives you access to the front pages of newspapers from all over the country, allowing you and your students to experience weather or news events from a variety of perspectives.

**Video Resources**

Using videos (clips and longer bits) can truly enhance instruction and learning. They simply give you and your student access to people, places, and things that were never before possible. No longer do you need to sign up for the VCR/DVD player or be limited to the items your school has purchased for viewing. I've listed some school-friendly video resources below. Just remember, no matter where you get your video from, please view the entire thing first to make sure all of the content is appropriate.

[www.youtube.com/education](http://www.youtube.com/education)

[www.watchknowlearn.org](http://www.watchknowlearn.org)

[www.learning.snagfilms.com](http://www.learning.snagfilms.com) (these are more documentary-type)

[www.neok12.com](http://www.neok12.com)

All of these sites have search boxes so you can quickly search for the topic you need.

**Did You Know…?**

…that even with good old PowerPoint you can add voice recordings to your presentations? Use the Insert menu and click on Record Sound. Then you'll see a box where you can name the recording and start it.

…you can import pictures from an internet image search into your interactive whiteboard pages/charts? Just right click on the image, select Copy Image, go back to the spot in your IWB file you want the picture, right click again, and select Paste.

**Continuing Your Growth**

Blogs you can view online and newsletters from "ed tech" organizations that come right to your email account are easy ways to continue to learn about how to use the technologies we have and what's new. Many have links to other relevant information embedded within the text so you can learn even more! Below I've listed a few blogs and free newsletters that might be of interest.

**Newsletters**

[www.eschoolnews.com](http://www.eschoolnews.com)

This site offers a free newsletter. Go to the far right hand side of the toolbar on the home page and you will see a button that says "SUBSCRIBE". Click on it and submit your email address. It's that simple. They often offer free webinars on current topics as well.

[www.techlearning.com](http://www.techlearning.com)

This site also offers a free newsletter. They feature sites of the day, new web tools, general ed tech news, free webinars, and an occasional round-up of the hottest stories in ed tech. Look for the "Subscribe" button in the upper right hand corner of the big blue title box on the site's home page.

**Blogs**

Each of these blogs is award-winning and meant for educators. Most will offer an option to receive updates or alerts when new things have been posted by the creator. You can choose to be updated with an email, a tweet, on Facebook…that way you won't have to remember to check them each day.

[www.freetech4teachers.com](http://www.freetech4teachers.com)

This blog features a variety of pages like "free downloads", "Google tutorials", "creating blogs and websites", and "favorite resources".

[www.theinnovativeeducator.blogspot.com](http://www.theinnovativeeducator.blogspot.com)

This blog offers fresh ideas on how to teach things.

[www.cyber-kap.blogspot.com](http://www.cyber-kap.blogspot.com)

This one is called Technology Tidbits. The author posts daily.

**Continuing Your Growth**

Sometimes you just want to watch someone do something or you have a particular technology topic you're interested in learning more about. These sites can help you do just that.

**Technology Self-Help Sites**

[www.atomiclearning.com](http://www.atomiclearning.com)

[www.woopid.com](http://www.woopid.com) (this one has video tutorials)

[www.internet4classrooms.com](http://www.internet4classrooms.com)

**Books You Should Read**

*Teach Like a Techie* by Lori Elliott, EdD

*Accidental Techie to the Rescue* by Lori Elliott, EdD

Lori writes for newbies. These books give you step-by-step directions and lots of screen shots to help you do everything from building a web page to creating a podcast –or finding out what one is!

**If I can help:**

**My email:**

[lreynolds@sde.com](mailto:lreynolds@sde.com)

**My blog (which has mostly technology tidbits):**

[www.thebulletinboard.org](http://www.thebulletinboard.org)

LIST OF RELATED CITATIONS

"CHANGING YOUR TECHNOLOGY 'TUDE"

STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS (SDE)

PRESENTED BY LAUREEN REYNOLDS

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